



**Fire/EMS Oversight Board  
MEETING MINUTES**

**APPROVED**

**January 3, 2013**

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Rick McCluskey, Vice-Chairman John Johnson, Village of Sturtevant Interim Administrator Mary Cole and Village of Mt. Pleasant Interim Administrator Jim Majdoch.

**Committee Members Absent:** Sonny Havn.

**Village Board Members Present:** None.

**Staff Members to the Board:** South Shore Interim Fire Chief Mark Pierce.

**Guests:** Daryl Lynaugh and Heather Asiyanbi from the Mt. Pleasant Patch.

**1. Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Rick McCluskey.**

**2. Approval of December 6, 2012 Minutes:** Motioned by John Johnson, seconded by Mary Cole.  
**Motion passed. Voice vote 4-0.**

**3. Operational Report:** Interim Fire Chief Mark Pierce distributed a staffing spreadsheet for the month of December and stated that all stations are fully staffed. Chief Pierce also distributed the Run Data Report and stated for the year of 2012 the total number of calls is 3,741. Chief Pierce also indicated the Run Data Report gives the jurisdiction, number of calls, primary unit dispatched and calls for service for the year of 2012. Chief Pierce said that there has been a 3% increase in calls since 2011.

Chief Pierce said five (5) people are off work on long term for workman's compensation, personal illnesses and family leave. Chief Pierce also stated the two (2) retirement positions and the two (2) additional positions needed along with the Chief's position are still not filled. Chief Pierce said that the South Shore Fire Department has ten (10) vacancies.

John Johnson asked what the status is on hiring the two (2) firefighters to fill retirement positions?

Chief Pierce said the Police Department should have background check reports completed within the next few days. Chief Pierce said after he receives the reports the applicants will go is for a physical and a psychological evaluation and hopefully be onboard sometime in February. (Please note these applicants have been approved by the Mt. Pleasant Village Board.)

Chief Pierce said that they went to the Finance, Legal, License Committee with the request of hiring two (2) additional firefighters. Chief Pierce said the Finance, Legal, License Committee made the recommendation to pass the vote of that onto the Village Board without a recommendation but with the recommendation that they wait until the new Fire Chief comes onboard. Chief Pierce said that will be presented to the Mt. Pleasant Village Board on Monday January 14, 2013. (Please note that these two (2) positions have been vacant since the start of the consolidation.)

Chief Pierce said that once these four (4) are hired we will need to start a new eligibility list. Chief Pierce said there is a potential for seven (7) more firefighters to retire at any time.

**4. Update of Fire Chief Search:** Rick McCluskey said this is currently in progress. Rick McCluskey said the ads have been pulled from the advertising agencies mainly because the responses they were getting were much lower than McGrath had anticipated.

Rick McCluskey said McGrath has approached them and asked that they go before the powers to be to see if they can expand the price range of the wages for a Fire Chief. Rick McCluskey said McGrath will be at the meeting



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on Monday January 14, 2013 and they will approach the Village Board regarding this. Rick McCluskey said that McGrath will be more than happy to discuss what is necessary to draw a candidate that we want with a very strong administrative background that can take care of the Fire Department. Rick McCluskey said that he spoke with McGrath and when we get the approval McGrath will reactivate the advertisement. Rick McCluskey said that if everything goes well the South Shore Fire Department should have a Fire Chief in office late March or early April.

John Johnson said in regards to hiring the two (2) additional firefighters; if they wait until the new Chief is hired, it will be putting these other firefighters back another 3 to 4 months.

Chief Pierce said if we wait to hire two (2) additional firefighters until we get a new Chief it will be at least July until they are on board.

John Johnson said that in the meantime it is a strain on your resources because it's eating up your overtime.

Mary Cole said she is concerned about the strain on the bodies of the guys that are working overtime.

Chief Pierce said there is strain on their families too.

Jim Majdoch said the longer you wait the higher the probability is of losing them to another department. Jim Majdoch said that you can lose your top people pretty quick.

Chief Pierce said that he is concerned that the longer this drags on the two (2) firefighters that are in the background check process will get hired somewhere else or just not be interested anymore because it took too long. Chief Pierce said that will put us back to square one again.

Rick McCluskey said this needs to be brought to the Village Boards attention on Monday January 14, 2013.

Chief Pierce requested the Oversight Committee to attend the Village Board meeting on Monday January 14, 2013.

John Johnson said we have done our job by making our recommendation. John Johnson said we are just an advisory board. John Johnson said we made our recommendation based on your (Chief Pierce) input on what's best and what we (Oversight Board) have seen.

John Johnson said hiring the two (2) additional firefighters is the best thing to do. John Johnson said it will eliminate overtime and reduce the stresses on the department. John Johnson said it also reduce the stress on your staff not only for the Fire Department but for the Village.

John Johnson said it is up to the Village Board to decide what course they want to pursue.

**5. 2014 CIP Requests:** Chief Pierce referred to the SSFD proposed 5-year CIP. The following is listed:

Fire-Rescue Squad/remount/New 2015

Fire-Power Load Cot System

Fire-Defibrillators – Interest

Fire-Defibrillators – Principal

Incident Command Car

Fire-Radios

Gear Washer

Air Compressor – Station 9 (Sturtevant)

Thermal Imaging Camera (ET 10 and Battalion 8)



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Support Services/Back up Incident Command Car

Tower Ladder

Fire Engine

Water Tender

Station 10 Sprinkler System

Station 10 Air Conditioner

Station 10 Kitchen

Laptops

Power Life Cot

(Please refer to SSFD proposed 5-year CIP for year of purchase and cost.)

Rick McCluskey said he would like a comparison summary of the 5-year plans from 2010 through 2015 indicating what items have been purchased and what items have not been purchased.

Chief Pierce said he will provide at the next Oversight Board meeting in February.

Mary Cole asked what the status is on the ambulance?

Chief Pierce said the Spec Committee is developing specifications and this is work in progress. Chief Pierce said they have had two (2) companies come in so far and on Monday January 7, 2013 there is another company coming to Station 8 with a demonstrator.

Jim Majdoch said one of the problems the departments have with the 5-year CIP, you try and keep each year as equal as possible but that doesn't always work out. Jim Majdoch said it is important to show what is needed as we move along.

Rick McCluskey said since 2010 everything on the 5-year CIP (as he understands it) needed to be replaced and for whatever reason the Village Board decided not to purchase those items. Rick McCluskey said he still thinks if those items have not been replaced still need to be part of the 5-year CIP and make notations or recommendations.

Rick McCluskey said so that if someone new comes into this Village Board can see your 5-year CIP and just by looking at it can tell that there have been a lot of requests made and the Village Board for whatever reason chose not to buy it. Rick McCluskey also said that new person can see the issues at hand.

Jim Majdoch said that if it was not purchased carry it over into the next year.

Mary Cole said it is good to outline what needs to be done.

Chief Pierce agreed and will create an outline.

Chief Pierce said a concern of his is that in 2011 we had an ambulance budgeted for \$165,000.00, the money was approved in the annual budget and the Village had the money and never spent it. Chief Pierce said now we have \$180,000.00 budgeted and taxed to people for that very same ambulance so in essence the taxpayers have been taxed \$345,000.00 that the Fire Department does not have. Chief Pierce said the people do not have the knowledge that we didn't get the ambulance.

Rick McCluskey said that is why if you request it, and it's approved but not purchased you need to add it onto the next year. Rick McCluskey said that way it shows that you have done your due diligence of spreading things out.

John Johnson asked how old the defibrillators are? John Johnson said that he noticed on the 5-year CIP (that was distributed) for 2013 the cost is \$7,057.00 and then for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 the cost goes up to \$45,000.00.



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John Johnson said it looks like you are re-leasing or purchasing the defibrillators again.

Chief Pierce said 2013 is year 5 of a 5-year lease agreement on the defibrillators and we will own the defibrillators as of January 26, 2014. Chief Pierce said we are looking at restructuring the lease to change to a new product with more capabilities at a lesser cost in 2014. Chief Pierce said the defibrillators have advanced technology which changes frequently.

Rick McCluskey asked if the \$45,000.00 in 2014 is the anticipated cost of another 5-year lease?

Rick McCluskey asked if the cost would be \$45,000.00 every year until 2017 as indicated on the 5-year CIP?

Chief Pierce does not have an answer at this time and will ask B/C Jon Keiser. Chief Pierce will provide information at the next Oversight Board meeting in February.

John Johnson asked if this purchase is a necessity even though the technology has changed?

Chief Pierce said he doesn't know what the life expectancy of the defibrillators is, he would think 5 years.

John Johnson said if the defibrillators are not failing and are functioning and they don't cause any problems with the patients; the question is why?

Daryl Lynaugh said this item looks like a want and not a need.

Chief Pierce will look into this and advise the Oversight Committee at the meeting in February.

John Johnson said that will come down to the justification.

**6. Public comments and discussions: No comments or discussions.**

Daryl Lynaugh said at the last meeting he attended (last month) there was discussion regarding a remount and asked if that is what we are considering at this time?

Chief Pierce said we are looking at buying a new ambulance. Chief Pierce said the new ones they are looking at are designed and built to be more capable of being remounted. Chief Pierce said the ambulances that we currently have can be remounted but are not designed to be remounted.

Daryl Lynaugh said in the late 1980's Sturtevant went that route and bought remounts and then Ford changed the trucks and the remounts would not fit the new trucks. Daryl Lynaugh doesn't think a remount would be such a good idea.

Chief Pierce said that is a good point because there are changes in the chassis and Ford does not make the E-Series anymore which is what all of our ambulances are. Chief Pierce said our new ambulance with either be a Chevy or a Ford F-Series. Chief Pierce said that if we had to go with a remount, we would remount our 2005 ambulance.

Daryl Lynaugh said he doesn't want history to repeat itself.

Daryl Lynaugh also stated that on the 2012 Summary Report it indicates that Med 7 responded to 280 calls but on that particular call if there were five (5) vehicles that responded would it only be one (1) call?

Chief Pierce said yes.



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Daryl Lynaugh said with that vehicle (Med 7) being one (1) with the other four (4) vehicles it doesn't show up on any of the other numbers?

Chief Pierce said no.

Daryl Lynaugh stated that we really don't have every piece of apparatus that goes to every call.

Chief Pierce said no. Chief Pierce said that it is generated by the call for service. Chief Pierce said an accident call will get the closest med unit and the next closest engine.

Rick McCluskey asked if we have information as to how many units were dispatched to a call?

Chief Pierce said he doesn't think Phoenix has that feature built into it.

Daryl Lynaugh said that we should hire all four (4) firefighters to eliminate all the overtime and not wait for a new Fire Chief.

Rick McCluskey said the Oversight Committee has made more than one (1) recommendation to the Village Board that they need to do it however we are only an advisory committee.

Heather Asiyambi stated that is why Chief Pierce invited everyone to the Village Board meeting on Monday January 14, 2013. Heather Asiyambi said it is important when he is giving his presentation to the Mt. Pleasant Village Board that Sturtevant Trustees show up and as a resident (Daryl Lynaugh) you still have invested interest and your taxes are helping pay for this too.

Daryl Lynaugh said basically it is not hurting Sturtevant because we are paying Mt. Pleasant a set amount of money per the contract to do the job and staff our six (6) people at Station 9 in Sturtevant. Daryl Lynaugh said Sturtevant is getting that, Mt. Pleasant is the one that is taking it.

Heath Asiyambi said you (Daryl Lynaugh) have to remember the formula goes into affect next year and if the overtime remains out of control you (Daryl Lynaugh) are going to take a hit on that because your percentage is going to go up.

Rick McCluskey said he does not want this to stretch this out to mid-2013 because we will have a department of burned out firefighters.

**7. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at South Shore Fire Department Station 9 located at 2801 89<sup>th</sup> Street, Sturtevant, WI 53177.**

**8. Adjournment:** Motioned by John Johnson, seconded by Mary Cole. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.  
**Motion passed. Voice Vote 4-0.**